



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/401,857	09/22/1999	JOHN M. NICKERSON	PM-263282	5226

7590

03/26/2003

PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP  
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE N W  
NINTH FLOOR EAST TOWER  
WASHINGTON, DC 200053918

EXAMINER

WALLERSON, MARK E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/401,857

Applicant(s)  
Nickerson et al

Examiner  
Mark Wallerson

Art Unit  
2622



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4, 6 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2622

### **Part III DETAILED ACTION**

#### **Notice to Applicant(s)**

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-42 are pending.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement dated 1/10/2000 and 1/28/2003 have been considered by the Examiner and is attached to this Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 2622

4. Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Masson et al (Masson) (U. S. 6,293,469).

With respect to claims 1, 23, and 29, Masson discloses a machine (figure 1) for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on input data (column 2, lines 15-23), the printer comprising a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed (column 2, lines 57-61); an ink jet printer for printing the readable information on the documents (column 11, lines 12-15); a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from the receptacle to the printer and for dispensing printed documents from the machines after being printed (column 2, lines 5-13 and 57-66), and a control unit coupled to the input unit and printer for controlling operation of the printer (column 4, lines 10-15).

With respect to claims 2, 10, 13, and 26, Masson discloses each document form carries a bar code and the machine comprises an optical reader for reading the bar code (column 2, lines 22-32).

With regard to claims 3, 4, and 20, Masson discloses the feed mechanism feeds document forms in succession in a feed direction through the printer (column 2, lines 57-66), the printer comprising a print head for dispensing ink (column 11, lines 8-11), the print head mounted for

Art Unit: 2622

movement in a direction traverse to the feed direction (column 8, lines 30-44), and the optical sensor mounted for movement with the print head (the abstract, lines 1-7).

With respect to claims 5, and 21, Masson discloses the sensor is coupled to the control unit for supplying data obtained from the bar code (column 2, lines 33-56).

With regard to claim 6, Masson discloses feeding the documents in a single direction from the receptacle through the printer (column 2, lines 57-65 and column 7, lines 56-60).

With respect to claims 7, 8, and 24, Masson discloses a program-controlled data processing device and input/output means for receiving the data and supplying signals to the printer, and memory means for storing programs instructions (column 12, line 58 to column 13, line 26).

With regard to claims 9 and 25, Masson discloses plural document forms held in the receptacle (column 2, lines 57-62) and each of the documents is a preprinted form (column 2, lines 33-41).

With respect to claims 11, 14, and 27, Masson discloses the documents are printed to have a monetary value determined by the inputted data and means for storing the monetary value (column 11, lines 40-52).

With regard to claims 12 and 28, Masson discloses blank forms held in the receptacle (column 2, lines 57-61), the printer supplying ink to be dispensed by the print head (column 18, lines 10-23).

Art Unit: 2622

With respect to claim 15, 16, 17, 18, 31, 32, and 33, Masson discloses receiving instructions from a central location to block dispensing of printed documents when the money value exceed a certain amount or no transmission of data from the central location has occurred for a period of time (column 2, lines 33-56).

With respect to claim 19, Masson discloses a machine (figure 1) for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on input data (column 2, lines 15-23), the printer comprising a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed (column 2, lines 57-61); an ink jet printer for printing the readable information on the documents (column 11, lines 12-15); a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from the receptacle to the printer and for dispensing printed documents from the machines after being printed (column 2, lines 5-13 and 57-66), and a control unit coupled to the input unit and printer for controlling operation of the printer (column 4, lines 10-15), wherein each document form carries a bar code and the machine comprises an optical reader for reading the bar code (column 2, lines 22-32).

With respect to claim 22, Masson discloses a machine (figure 1) for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on input data

Art Unit: 2622

(column 2, lines 15-23), the printer comprising a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed (column 2, lines 57-61); an ink jet printer for printing the readable information on the documents (column 11, lines 12-15); a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from the receptacle to the printer and for dispensing printed documents from the machines after being printed (column 2, lines 5-13 and 57-66), and a control unit coupled to the input unit and printer for controlling operation of the printer (column 4, lines 10-15), wherein the printer supplies ink for printing (column 18, lines 10-16).

With regard to claim 30, Masson discloses a machine (figure 1) for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on input data (column 2, lines 15-23), the printer comprising a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed (column 2, lines 57-61); an ink jet printer for printing the readable information on the documents (column 11, lines 12-15); a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from the receptacle to the printer and for dispensing printed documents from the machines after being printed (column 2, lines 5-13 and 57-66), and a control unit coupled to the input unit and printer for controlling operation of the printer (column 4, lines 10-15), the documents are printed to have a monetary value determined by the inputted

Art Unit: 2622

data and means for storing the monetary value (column 11, lines 40-52), and a communication interface for transmitting data stored in the memory to a central location (column 2, lines 33-56).

With respect to claim 34, 38, and 39, Masson discloses a machine (figure 1) for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); a document printer unit for printing readable information on document forms based on input data (column 2, lines 15-23), the printer comprising a document form storage receptacle for holding the document forms prior to being printed (column 2, lines 57-61); an ink jet printer for printing the readable information on the documents (column 11, lines 12-15); a feed mechanism for feeding the document forms in succession from the receptacle to the printer and for dispensing printed documents from the machines after being printed (column 2, lines 5-13 and 57-66), and a control unit coupled to the input unit and printer for controlling operation of the printer (column 4, lines 10-15), a communication interface for transmitting data stored in the memory to a central location (column 2, lines 33-56 and column 4, lines 16-35), and means for receiving instructions from a central location to block dispensing of printed documents when the money value exceed a certain amount or no transmission of data from the central location has occurred for a period of time (column 2, lines 33-56).

With regard to claim 35, Masson discloses a method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); providing plural



Art Unit: 2622

documents each printed with a bar code (column 2, lines 33-50); feeding a succession of document forms from a storage receptacle to a document printer and printing readable information on each document based on inputted data (column 2, lines 57-66; column 4, lines 16-35, and column 8, lines 30-33); reading the bar code on each document with an optical reader when the form is in the printer (column 4, lines 16-35), and dispensing each form after printing (column 2, lines 5-10).

With regard to claim 36 and 37, Masson discloses a method for preparing and dispensing documents relating to financial transactions (column 2, lines 5-9) comprising a manually operable input unit for input of data and operation commands (column 2, lines 50-56); feeding a succession of document forms from a storage receptacle to a document printer and printing readable information on each document based on inputted data (column 2, lines 57-66; column 4, lines 16-35, and column 8, lines 30-33); printing on each successive document with magnetic ink (ink) (column 8, lines 30-49 and column 18, lines 10-19), and dispensing each form after printing (column 2, lines 5-10).

With respect to claims 40-42, Masson discloses a keyboard (which reads on a terminal) in communication with the machine (column 2, lines 50-56).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Art Unit: 2622

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two

2121 Crystal Drive

Arlington, VA.

Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

  
**MARK WALLERSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

MARK WALLERSON